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Monsieur Le Docteur
Du Barry

1829

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Le Ray

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AN
ADDRESS

DELIVERED BEFORE THE
**JEFFERSON COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,**

15th September, 1829,
AT WATERTOWN, N. Y.

BY J. LE RAY DE CHAUMONT,
PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY.

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9293
"THE PLOUGH IS OF NO PARTY."

TO WHICH IS SUBJOINED,
Notes, and an Abstract of the Report of the
VIEWING COMMITTEE.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE SOCIETY.

PAR
1829.



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ADDRESS.

AT the last general meeting of our Agricultural Society, having been requested to supply the absence of the person who was to deliver you this day an Address, I have accepted the invitation, encouraged by your constant partiality for my feeble efforts, and by that indulgence you have heretofore extended to me on all occasions. On this particular one, an additional encouragement has been given to me, in considering the merits and qualifications of our Viewing Committee, whose REPORT, (*Note A.*) will excuse me from treating on many subjects, that they are much more conversant with, and to which they will certainly do better justice. I am the more gratified, that it leaves me a latitude on subjects that require from me extensive developments to be sufficiently understood.

We have been convinced, by various experiments, that hemp grows well here, and that there is not the smallest doubt entertained, that we have in this county a sufficient proportion of first rate land, for the raising of that precious plant. However, the operation of rotting here, as in many other countries, was the occasion of the preference being given to other cultures. But the successful and repeated experiments of the newly invented machine, to prepare hemp without rotting, must give us sufficient encouragement to cultivate it in the manner and soils suitable to its growth. A machine, similar to that which has had great success in Saratoga County the preceding year, is going to be established immediately at Juhelville, near this village. The price which the owner of this machine is asking to prepare the hemp for market, leaves to the grower of it a great benefit. It is not uncommon for one acre to yield half a ton, which will sell for \$100.

hemp -

The cultivation of the mulberry tree would undoubtedly be a source of great profit to this county, as regards the manufacture of silk. In the *New-England Farmer*, a very valuable periodical work, it is stated that four acres of ground, planted in mulberry trees near Boston, afforded food in one season, for the support of as many silk-worms as produced 420 lbs. of silk, worth \$3.20 per pound, amounting to \$1470. All the labor necessary in producing this result, was performed by four girls, whose attention was but for a small portion of the year.

In a treatise upon the mulberry, the author says, "a full grown white mulberry tree under proper cultivation, will yield 300 lbs. of leaves." He calculates 48 trees to an acre, and assumes only 200 lbs. as the average produce of each tree, which at \$1 per quintal, will give \$96 of yearly income for a single acre of land. Thus 48 trees will produce 9600 lbs. of leaves, furnishing a supply of food for 384,000 worms. Taking the ratio of 3000 worms to a pound of silk, the 384,000 worms will yield 128 lbs. of silk, which, at the low price of \$4, will produce \$512. Deduct for wages and contingent expenses \$125, for winding the silk from the cocoons \$125, and there will remain \$262, which may be considered, says the author, as the produce of a single acre of land.

Such a produce is so great, that I would not recommend an implicit confidence in it; but was it reduced in our estimation, to one-tenth part of its amount, there will be yet still sufficient encouragement.

Two small nurseries of mulberries have been planted in this vicinity, which will greatly facilitate their dissemination in this section of our country.

The improvement to be yet made in the breed of our cattle, and it is a subject so familiar to the farmers, that it is sufficient to tell those who have been stationary at home, that the late importations from Europe, of some of their best breed, have proved such an advantageous addition to the stock generally spread in the United States, that it would be highly our interest to take proper measures to introduce some of this improved breed into our county. We should feel encouraged immediately to take the necessary steps, when we attend to the immense benefits which we have received from the amelioration of our breed of horses. (B.)

I wish much to call your serious attention towards the cultivation of the vine, as I am now convinced that the moment is come, when we can undertake this new kind of industry, with a reasonable hope to be repaid in due time for our labors, and to replace by a wholesome and agreeable drink, the most pernicious and most dangerous use of spirituous liquors, which no doubt, will be more effectually and permanently prevented by the manufacture of wine in this country, than by any other measure that can be adopted.

This appeal to your attention, and if convinced, to your exertions, will surprise, no doubt, some of you, who may have heard me hold a very different language in my first address to this Agricultural Society, in 1817. (C.)

I have under my eyes an important communication published in the New-England Farmer. An editorial article, under the date of the 14th of last month, upon the cultivation of the vine in this country, gives some of the facts and arguments which have been advanced on the question, whether vines of foreign origin can be raised to advantage in the United States? The quotations he makes there, are certainly very unfavorable to that question, and even to the making of the wine; and I appear to be almost the only one who has spoken in favor of European vines cultivated in this country. Mention is made by the editor, of some remarks I addressed to this Society in 1827, where in recommending to you the cultivation of the vine, I said "I should be sorry if any one should conclude that wine could be made *now* with advantage in the United States." "We have some reasons for considering ourselves as not *discouragingly* far from that desired epocha. But while labor will not have fallen much lower than it is," &c.

The New-England Farmer gives afterwards, various statements, which he has extracted among several others which have been made by the respectable editor of the New-York Horticultural Repository. One gentleman, R. W. Withers, writes that he last year travelled in sixteen of the States, and as far as New Orleans; that he found in every place where the attempt had been made to cultivate foreign vines, it had been unsuccessful. Even at Vevay, the Swiss colony in Indiana, where he does not recollect to have seen a single European vine, except a very diminutive one in Mr. Defour's garden, who told him

that "they had long since been compelled to abandon their cultivation." He quotes a more desponding fact, that of the French emigrants in Green County, Alabama, where Congress had given them lands for the express purpose, and on condition of cultivating the vine. "The experiment was fairly tried with a great many varieties, and under the care of professed *vignerons*, but never in one instance have they been repaid for their labor and expense. Only one has given hopes of success, but Mr. Withers declares it evidently a native." This enterprising gentleman is "determined," says he, "to succeed in making good wine, and making it profitably." The editor of the New-York Horticultural Repository, in publishing those facts, and many more equally desponding, as to the cultivation of the foreign vines, states at the same time, that his object is merely to elicit information from others on this very important and interesting subject.

The above statements, coupled with the high price of labor first alluded to by me, would no doubt be sufficient to discourage us entirely from any further attempts to cultivate the vine, at least the foreign, for the purpose of making wine. I have offered you, gentlemen, the dark side of the picture. Let us turn a new leaf, and I hope that on it, you will see a brighter prospect.

All the inquiries made, prove that the failures of the different attempts in raising the foreign vines, are due principally to mildew or carbon, which in a few years unvariably destroys them, or prevents their bearing fruit, while the native are not materially affected by it. Now it is an avowed fact, that the foreign vines which have been cultivated in this county, have not been subject to this destructive disease, and we have under our eyes evident proofs that we can raise here with success, several species of foreign vines, of which wine can be made, besides another kind very good for the table, the Chasselas blanc. The vine called black Morillon of the Cape of Good Hope, was cultivated with success near Philadelphia, by Jacob Hepp, an experienced gardener, who has cultivated the vine, not only in the United States, but in his own native country, Germany, where his father had a vineyard of 12 acres, and in a temperature pretty similar to ours. When he came from Philadelphia into this county about six years ago, he brought with him one of the roots of the Morillon, but it had been so much injured in taking

it from a frozen ground, that Mr. Hepp did not consider it much more than a cutting. However, it has produced for three years past, a good crop of fine grapes, which ripened in the month of September and beginning of October. He counted the other day 251 bunches of grapes upon it, and he reckons they will weigh at least 62 lbs. But he justly observes, that this produce would have been a great deal more, if he had not taken many layers from that same vine. One of them which is now three years old, has on it 93 fine bunches of grapes. Mr. Hepp says that this vine shows more rapid growth and finer production, than the same kind of vine he and others cultivated near Philadelphia. Opposite to the city, on the Jersey shore, Mr. Cooper has made wine of the same grape.

Another kind of Vine, cultivated with success in this country, and particularly adapted to the making of the Wine, is the *Morillon noir hatif*, the kind to which Virgil alludes, (*Geor.* 11,) and which Pliny (*Historia Naturalis*) calls *Trifera*. You have before you grapes produced by this Vine, which has been examined by a great many in the garden of Le Raysville. These Grapes were ripe at the end of last month, and were picked a few days ago. It must be observed that the Vine stands nearly in the middle of the Garden, and has been trained facing to the north, along a rough trellis, an unfavorable circumstance in this adverse season, for the ripening of fruits. Means might have been employed to have the Grapes ripen much sooner. The operation of girdling, for instance, would have hastened it from 15 to 20 days. But the principal attention has been turned towards the production of a great deal of wood, to multiply as much as possible, this valuable Vine. Several roots coming from it, are already growing successfully. In tasting this Grape, you will find it juicy and sweet.

The *Morillon hatif* is highly recommended by several able writers, particularly by Mr. Thiebaut de Berneaud, Editor of the *Paris Journal of Agriculture*, and who has been himself a powerful contributor to the extension of that rich species of culture, in climates where it was thought formerly quite inadmissible, as *Belgie*, &c.

In that valuable book, translated lately by the daughter of the learned Dr. Felix Pascalis, after having said that the berry of the *Morillon hatif*, has "all the qualities requisite for furnish-

ing a very fine wine." The author adds, "we would invite the attention of cultivators of the vine, to this species, recommending a trial of it in situations where it is difficult to ripen the grape."

We have tried to introduce into this county, a multiplicity of other sorts of vines imported from Europe. I had bad luck with the first importation about two years ago, as the gardener to whom their culture was confided, during a long absence I made, suffered these young plants to be smothered by the weeds, which completely surrounded and covered them. Some of my neighbours however, to whom we had given a parcel, had more success. The importation of last year is quite encouraging, though by some delays in the arrivals of the vines, they were planted too late, in May and June.

They are from different parts of France, Champaign, Burgundy, &c. and of Switzerland. Many valuable varieties were sent from the neighborhood of Geneva, and notably the vine of Madeira, cultivated in Switzerland, and therefore better adapted to our temperature. The growth of these different vines, can be witnessed by every one curious to examine them, as 1200 of them are adjoining the public road, in a field to the north of the village of Le Raysville; more than one-half are doing remarkably well, and are very promising. Some of them have grapes. They were covered last winter with small branches of hemlock only.

The production of grapes the first year after being planted, has been considered by some as an accident, and rather to be lamented by the owners of such vines, which they say will not bear another year. But several visitors have noticed in the Le Raysville garden, two kinds of vine grapes, which were sent from Montreal at the end of fall, and planted the succeeding spring, had given some small bunches of grapes, which came to good maturity last fall. The same vines have produced a greater proportion of bunches this year, larger and riper, in the present month. They are foreign grapes, and suitable for the making of wine.

I would recommend covering some way or other, the young plants, the first and second year, and I have even used that precaution for old ones. Mr. Hepp, however, had some of his but partially covered, and some not covered at all, last winter, which was rather a severe one for the plants in general, yet he finds no

difference, and it has affected neither the wood, nor the production of the fruit. (D.)

Will I be told, that before we make our mind up on this important subject, and make some preparations for the more extensive culture of the vine, we must wait some years yet to see the result of the cultivation of those new imported vines? I think not. The kinds which succeed so well with us, both foreign and native grapes, are sufficient, if we adopt the following method which I shall briefly relate to you, to ensure success in the cultivation of the vine, and consequently to enable us to obtain the deserved reward of our labors. But to prompt you to begin sooner this meritorious task, permit me, gentlemen, to add here, that it is not only the facts that are under our eyes which must encourage us, but the conviction that our position and our climate are peculiarly favorable to the cultivation of the vine. I do not speak of the soil—nothing more common than to find such as suit the vines—that which we would call here, an indifferent soil.

It is to the climate that your vines owe the inestimable advantage to be exempt from the greatest diseases which destroys the foreign vines in many parts of the United States; and for this advantageous climate we are indebted, not so much, perhaps, to that range of mountains, which to the south-east of us, protect us from the baneful humidity with which the winds blowing from the coasts of Newfoundland are impregnated, as to our relative situation with Lake Ontario. The west winds which prevail here the greatest part of the year, passing before they reach us, upon this vast mass of water, at times refresh our climate, at other times moderate it, and most always to our benefit. (E.) The vine dreads equally a great humidity, or a great drought. We are exempt from both. The fogs are so rare in this part, that compared with other countries I have visited, and I have travelled a good deal, I would say there is none: so I would say of hail storms, which are so fatal to vineyards, and in some of the most favored countries in Europe as to climate, have in some particular years, swept away the whole crops of thousands of acres of vineyards. The blight is another most destructive disease of the vine. It is commonly occasioned by a continued rain during the flower-

ing. It is not uncommon in the great vine countries of Europe during that season, to have rains which last without interruption, or the presence of the sun, for several weeks. Here nothing is more rare than a storm of rain which lasts more than three days, and the powerful and benign influence of the great renovator of plants is not withdrawn from them a longer time. But the cold? We have certainly enough of that in our winters, but are not the worse of it. Vegetation starting later, vines are less subject to be injured by the late frosts of the spring; and we have always sun enough to bring the grains and the plants we cultivate to a good maturity. Witness the corn which has been cultivated to a great extent and complete success, since the origin of our Society, which counts nearly twelve years, during which we have had an opportunity to observe it all through this county.

I must lament to have been so diffuse in what precedes, while the most important remains untold. I will try to be more concise, while you bestow me somewhat longer a patient ear.

My great objection, and I must say, my only real one, to the cultivation of the vine, with a view to making wine, is at last removed by the happy result of many inquiries I have made in Europe and here, to many persons who had followed, and examined attentively, a method very different from the one which is uniformly adopted in all the vineyards of the middle and northern parts of France, where I lived and observed them attentively. There nine-tenths of the work, at least, is made by the hand of man, and part of it so painful and hurtful to the body, as to injure materially the workmen, while in many parts of the south, and where very good wines too are made, the most painful and more laborious part of the cultivation of the vine is achieved by the work of horses and cattle. The difference is such in favor of this country, between the two methods, that I do not hesitate to say, that every thing considered and calculated, this last method will not occasion you more expense in this country than in France, to produce the same quantity of wine that would be obtained by the other method, which would cost you nearly three times as much as in France. This result is not only occasioned by the difference of the price of the labor of men in the two countries, which, in the preferred method,

is substituted for the greatest part, by the work of animals, that do not cost more here than in France, and which can be fed cheaper; but because this preferred method owes principally its greater produce, to its having a much greater proportion of land consecrated to the same quantity of vine stocks, and that the land is considerably cheaper here than in France. Mr. Thiebaud, in comparing the two methods, to prove the immense advantage of the one he recommends, does not calculate the produce of an acre, but of the number of stocks. He says, "that 2000 stocks trained according to this method, will produce yearly, 26,000 gallons of wine; while on the other hand, 6000 stocks, trained in the ordinary way, produce in common seasons, only from 780 to 1300 gallons, and in the very best seasons only about 2600 gallons." The enormous difference of thirty to one. Mr. Thiebaud adds that the increase in quality also is considerable.

Considering the comparative value of the land we would consecrate here to the cultivation of the vine, with the same nature of land in Europe, and that there is a difference of at least nine-tenths in our favor, I would propose an altogether different and more economical method in the first planting of the vine. I would set the roots and the wooden posts twelve feet apart, (F.) instead of eight feet, as recommended by Mr. Thiebaud, leaving as he does, the space between for the cultivation of grain or other productions, as preferred by the farmer. The trenches, two feet broad and one foot deep, should be made with the plough and the scraper, which can be equally useful and convenient in covering the roots. Some alteration and economy could be made in the hand labor, when we take in consideration, that a considerable part of it can be done by children during the vacancies. This interesting portion of the American population is more numerous, comparatively to the other portion, than in Europe, and generally better educated, and more dexterous than those of the same age on the other side of the water. No more details are needed to give such an idea and knowledge of this culture, as may be required for the present moment and purpose. Every necessary instruction on this subject, will undoubtedly be afforded in the works of Messrs. Prince and Parmentier, now in or preparing for the press.

An economical way, and perhaps the best for the generality of us, to be prepared to cultivate the vine, would be in the following months to take cuttings from the native vines growing almost every where in this county, and to plant them in a small nursery; and when they shall have fairly taken root and become sufficiently vigorous, to graft upon their roots, such of the foreign vines as may have proved preferable to others for our soil and climate, or of the native vines as may answer as good or a better purpose. You might at the same time like to cultivate a few of the foreign grapes. It will be in your power. Out of the 1200 vine roots mentioned above, 1000 are now given by the proprietor to this Agricultural Society, and will be disposed of as they may think proper.

The report of our viewing committee, you will find, very encouraging, and I think it will resound very much to the honor of the inhabitants of this county, when any one will consider the most extraordinary events and unexpected difficulties which we have had to encounter, and which it was not in the reach of the human mind to foresee, when the majority of you came to settle in this county. You were not preferably attracted to it merely by the goodness and fertility of the soil, adapted, it is true, to every kind of grain, nor by the salubrity of the climate, which could only be ascertained by experience and length of time—neither by the abundance of wild game and fish, which might be vastly diminished by the settlement of the country: No; your marked preference was given to this county, more particularly by its superiority over all other new countries in the advantages of market, and in the greatest facility for communication with the old settled parts of this state, and of neighbouring ones from which most of you were coming. You considered too in your choice, that being so much nearer those states which yearly furnish thousands and thousands of emigrants, this favored spot adopted by you, would much sooner than any other new country, be filled and so thickly settled, as to ensure to the natural advantages you were finding here, the accession of almost all those acquired ones which the old country you had left had made you enjoy. By land, none of the western counties, not even the Genessee, could be equal to you for the advantages of market; and the difference then of the price of their wheat with our's at home, proved the difference of facilities of

transport to Albany; and if we preferred the Canada market, our comparative facilities of transportation were still greater, either by water or by land.

To these considerations, we no doubt owed principally the great and rapid success of our first settlements in this Black River country, and nothing but a succession of the most unforeseen and adverse events, could have prevented us from realising our well grounded hopes and calculations. The unexpected acquisition of Louisiana, would not have been a detriment to our settlement, any more than the vast and fertile territories adjoining to it, already possessed by the United States; for we would have attained all our growth and consequence, before they could have attracted the attention of the emigrants of the eastern states. But steam-boats are invented, and unexpected and unnatural effects are produced, equal almost to the prolongation of the ocean, 1000 miles in the midst of these counties. Yet such was the combined advantage of being nearer the great nurseries of emigrants of the east, and at the same time of the great markets, that the northern part of the state of New-York, so situated, had for a long time the preference by those emigrants, upon the fine and fertile lands of the west of the state.

The fatal effect of the steam-boats was great and threatening, but by the proper management, and activity of the land-holders of the north, the choice of the emigrants was at least divided. Those emigrants had yet between them and the lands on the Ohio, and the Mississippi, a long and expensive land journey.

The great difficulty is overcome, and the completion of the chain of communication is effected, to the great astonishment of most every one, by the scheme of the great canal, which in fact, was to unite the Ohio with the North River—New-Orleans with New-York.

The consequences of these three great unexpected events, almost impossible to foresee, as well as to counteract, were by a singular fatality, followed or accompanied by three others, less extraordinary it is true, but far beyond the powers of the land-holders or settlers to oppose or change in the least degree, though they could not but see in this unexampled and dreadful combination, almost the annihilation of their former and reasonable calculations. These were,

1. The rapid, and for a while, constant fall of the value of the chief produce of our counties. It was so great, that the price of wheat, which in the end of 1816, and beginning of 1817, commanded \$2, was reduced to four shillings, and remained nearly so, till these last 12 months, a price about two-thirds less than it had been in our country, since the beginning of its settlement.

2. The resolutions of Congress, at that time and since, to sell their lands much lower than before, instead of increasing the price as it could be expected, at least of those which by the new facilities of communication were rendered so much more valuable.

3. The English Government prompted by their jealousies, of the increasing prosperity of the northern frontiers of their rival neighbours, enacted such laws as amounted in fact, to preventing not only the exportation into Canada, of the produce of the United States, but even the navigation of the St. Lawrence within their limits; thus depriving the counties of St. Lawrence, Jefferson, and Lewis, of the last resource which was left to them for carrying to market their produce, which was already too much reduced to bear the expenses of a land carriage. Many thought that this county could not resist the tremendous and constant attacks upon its anticipated prosperity. Indeed a number of its inhabitants, seduced by the alluring attraction of the new states, emigrated from among us. Happily for us, however, far the greatest part of them, I might say, almost all that had means to come back, proved yet a preference for the remaining advantages of this their first choice. With you, constant and happy inhabitants of this county, they have withstood the storm, and it affords me a great consolation to add, became conquerors of the greatest difficulties. Why should I not call you so, when we behold the great improvements which are to be seen and admired in a considerable part of this county.

I would miss my principal object, in retracing, as I have just done, the difficulties we had to encounter for these several years past, if I was not to notice how they have been chiefly conquered or neutralized, and then point briefly what we can do by ourselves, or obtain by the just support of the government, to make us realise the well grounded and reasonable expectations we generally had, in coming into this fine portion of the state.

The vast sum paid for the improvement and the multiplicity of our roads, to go to market, have partly remedied the disadvantages we felt from the construction of the great canal, and it is chiefly in the winter, when the water communications are interrupted by ice, that we feel, and ever will feel the benefit of these roads. But above that, the completion of the canal of Oswego, will this very season, offer to the western and southern parts of our county, advantages as great as have been reaped for many years, by several of the counties along the great canal. But the vast north-eastern part of this county, and of the county of Lewis, reduced almost to the precarious market of Canada, requires that the state grant them a canal, without which, their natural advantages will be most comparatively a blank to its inhabitants, and to the state, and of course to this part of our country, whose well understood interest, is united intimately with the other less favoured.

The effects of the low price of landed property must now be set aside, and while we must be satisfied that they have not done more hurt to the community, we are to consider chiefly the good effect this continued low price will now produce, with good management, upon the future settlement, and the increasing population of this county, and the adjoining ones, in which we take a warm interest, and where as well as in this county, the prices of improved and wild lands, combined with their quality and situation, will insure shortly, a new increase of population and improvements.

We do not find, it is true, a similar compensation in the prolonged continuation of the low price of our grains, and at the same time that we allow that it has had one great salutary effect, to render us more industrious and economical, we think that a rise in the price of grain, is needed for the encouragement of the possessors of improved farms. But we must feel more the necessity of varying our chances, by introducing in the management of our farms, some new culture, as I have recommended in the beginning of this address, and by paying more attention to the raising of our cattle, and the improvement of their breed. I must too fix your attention to the encouragement which is offered by the present price of potash. At no time wild land could be cleared so cheap by the laborer. Never could he buy

his provisions, neither his clothes, nor the implements necessary for his work, near so cheap as he can now; and he will **however** obtain a price for potash, which is as high, upon an average, as it has been during those years, when every other article was infinitely higher than it is now.

Having thus long intruded upon you, gentlemen, I feel the necessity of concluding—I only ask leave for one word more.

Amongst the fine display of our domestic manufactures, every one who has seen this continued proof of our increasing industry, must have particularly noticed the elegant works of our fair country-women. Their kind and successful efforts, deserve highly the tribute of our sincere gratitude, and constant admiration. Let us ask from them the favor to join their voices in melody, to our humble supplications to the Supreme Being, that he may deign to bestow his blessings on our Society.

NOTES

REFERRED TO IN THE PRECEDING PAGES.

[NOTE A.]

The Jefferson County Agricultural Society, held their annual Cattle Show and Fair in this village, on the 15th inst. The day was very fine, and the turn out of the farmers was unusually large. There was a very large and choice display of stock. The young stock showed marks of the latest and best improvements. The working oxen were more numerous, and of better quality than have usually been exhibited on such occasions. The domestic manufactures were of a superior quality, but the competition not so great as usual, except carpeting, where there was a very laudable zeal shown, and much of which would have done no discredit to the manufactories of Europe. The ploughing match was unusually interesting, from the number of competitors, with both horses and oxen. Fifteen teams were entered, and the committee state that the ploughing was very good, shewing an evident improvement in tools, teams and ploughmen.

The Jefferson County Agricultural Society, stands alone in this state. It is a proud reflection to her farmers to have it in their power, with an age of only about thirty years, to give example to counties that count centuries.

Extract of the Report of the Viewing Committee of the Jefferson County Agricultural Society.

To those of us who occasionally, by business or otherwise are called into different parts of the county, the progress in improvements is observed and often made the subject of pleasing remark. To form a correct estimate of its actual advancement, a more minute examination becomes necessary. Actual inspection and personal intercourse with the inhabitants of the county, furnish the best means to attain this object. It is with this view the society have adopted the system of constituting a committee, who shall inspect the situation of the agricultural interests of the county, and communicate the same, in order that the different parts may be benefited by the improvements of their neighbors, or share their errors in case of failure in any attempted experiment at improvement. Communications of this kind, may also have the effect of circulating more extensively the advantages of our country in point of soil, location, &c. which frequently produces the most favorable result.

All men are subject to individual and local partialities, and when reading or hearing men speak on subjects relating to themselves or their own country, we are apt to remark that their statements are to be taken with some grain of allowance. In our report we do not claim to be exempt from this remark; we have most of us been long residents of this county, our all is embarked here, and what remains to us of mortal existence will probably be spent here.

The season having been fine, we found the general appearance of the country unusually verdant, and crops of every kind very abundant. A kind providence had extended an equal hand in aid of the exertions of man, and wheat, rye, corn, and every fruit of the earth, were good of their kind. Health, the greatest human blessing prevailed generally, and man was enabled in all his strength to secure for himself the rich harvest. As to our local situation there is an evident improvement, and the facilities in carrying our produce to market, are daily becoming better. A direct water communication to New-York, by way of Oswego, is complete and in full operation. The enterprising citizens of Brownville have extended this navigation into the interior to their village, by means of improvements at the mouth of the Black River, and have constructed a Steam Boat to add to its facilities. Great exertions are making by our enterprising citizens in the east part of the county, in conjunction with their neighbors in the county of Lewis, to connect the navigation of the Black River, from the Long Falls to the High Falls, with the Erie Canal, by a canal to Rome. Last, but not least, we still enjoy, to a great extent, the benefits of the St. Lawrence and the Canada market. Our population continues to evince the same laudable enterprise and aptitude to conform to those precincts, which promise the greatest good that has always characterized them.

We found apples in considerable abundance, and the wild plumb in great plenty and variety. The tame plumb of the best quality has been introduced into several gardens in this county, and has succeeded well. The last spring however involved us in the same calamity which extended itself to different parts of the United States, and few or none of our improved trees yielded any fruit. We found the vine doing well in several places, those however in the garden of Mr. Hepp, of Le Ray, exceeded for quality and quantity, any thing we had any idea of seeing in this county. We also saw large quantities of the foreign grape, imported last spring, a year ago, by our worthy president, growing finely and some having a number of clusters of grapes.

And here we hope to be permitted to call the attention of the people of this county to the exertions of Mr. Hepp, in introducing into our county a very extensive collection of fruit and ornamental trees and shrubbery of almost every description, and of the best quality, which he offers upon reasonable terms.

Allow us also to say, that in planting orchards, the difference in the value of grafted fruit over that that is natural, far exceeds the difference in price and ought to be preferred. The grafting the tame plumb and cherry on the wild has been practiced to some extent in this county and is found to succeed well.

We could not award premiums to all the applicants, only six being at our disposal. To those who have not obtained a prize, we would offer the remarks of the late Timothy Pickering Esq. whose vast mind did not fail to embrace the subject of agriculture, and who was a conspicuous and zealous member of the agricultural society in the county in which he resided. He says "reflecting farmers, who shall become candidates for premiums, will be aware, that if their exertions should not obtain the honor of a prize, they will not be unrewarded; as all the improvements they make, will either give them

immediate profits or add to the value of their farm. The direct object of premiums is not to excite merely trials of skill, but to add to the solid interests of farming, and he who shall show how we may add to that solid interest, will obtain the highest prize." The above remarks by Col. Pickering, although confined to farms, are equally applicable to all articles presented for premiums.

The farm to which we have awarded the first premium, contains about two hundred and fifty acres of land, of which one hundred and eighty is under improvement, a large proportion of which is pasture and meadow, being what is commonly denominated a grazing farm. The farm is well watered, the buildings good and convenient, a strict attention is paid to cleanliness from weeds, and there is on this farm something like five hundred and eighty rods of board and cedar fence, well built and in good order. Every thing that indicates the good farmer is to be seen here, and the award of the first premium was unanimous.

The farm to which we have awarded the second premium was taken up about twenty years ago, contains about one hundred and seventy five acres, one hundred and forty five acres being under improvement, a large share of which is occasionally under the plough. The proprietor of this farm is one of the many meritorious citizens of this county, who came here with small means, who by his own prudence and exertions has cleared his land and paid for it, and who now has every thing about him to make life pleasant.

The farm to which the third, fourth and fifth premiums were awarded, were in excellent condition as to buildings, fences and freedom from weeds, and the third and fourth had superior orchards on them.

The farm to which the sixth premium was awarded, contained rising of five hundred acres of land paid for, three hundred acres under improvement, principally made by the occupant and his family. He is a foreigner with very little knowledge of our language, and possessed little or no means to begin with, relying solely on his own exertions. On this farm there was much to praise and some things that verified the remark, that has been frequently made here, that the farm was too large. The house was a stone one, well built and furnished, a number of spacious barns, and a great deal of substantial stone wall. A very extensive summer fallow, well done, some new orcharding, and a very large stock, but not so clean as it ought to be.

The other farms we viewed, evinced that the owners were not unmindful of their true interests. A perseverance in the course thus begun, cannot fail to ensure the highest premiums of the society, but must confer lasting benefits on themselves and their posterity.

The committee have awarded the first premium to George White, of Rutland.

The second to Curtis Golden, Pamela.

The third to James Wilson, Watertown.

The fourth to Dorastus Waite, Champion.

The fifth to Elisha Matteson, Hounsfield.

The sixth to William Cooper, Le Ray.

CALEB BURNHAM,

FLANATHAN MATTESON,

JOHN BROWN,

EGBERT TEN EYCK,

ANSON SMITH,

ALBERT BRAYTON,

Viewing Committee.

[NOTE B.]

One of the firm of a house in Boston, that slaughters more beef and pork than any other in New-England, estimates the improvement in the quality of neat cattle, in the last ten or twelve years, at *ten* per cent. The cattle now driven to market, in consequence of a favorable change in the frame of the animal, will yield ten per cent. more flesh than those that came to us twelve years ago. This improvement, the gentleman, wholly and unhesitatingly, ascribes to the influence of our cattle shows. The house alluded to, slaughters from three to six thousand head of cattle in a year. Taking the average weight of each to be nine hundred pounds, it will be at once seen, that this improvement in the quality of neat stock will amount to no less a sum than from *fifteen to thirty thousand* dollars a year on the beef brought into market by one house — *Boston D. Advertiser.*

[NOTE C.]

"The apple, cherry, walnut, hickory-nut and plum, are found in abundance in almost all the forests of this country. Even the grape is found growing spontaneously, chiefly on the banks of our rivers, and often comes to maturity.

"In quoting this last production of our country, far from me is the wish to raise in your minds, the expectation to cultivate it otherwise than in your gardens. Was the climate the most favorable to growth of the vine, as in my native country, in what they call the garden of France, and where I myself, cultivated with success the grape—I would guard you from making the attempt to have a vineyard. It requires all hand labor, and except one single month in the year, the hand of man must be constantly employed about the vine. The average price of hands employed to that culture is, in France, 18 cents, food included; and here you could not procure the work done for less than three times that sum. In both countries the vine will require pretty near an equal proportion of the application of the hand of man."

[NOTE D.]

The covering of the vines with small branches of evergreen, or if such cannot be got, with pease straw, is not only of a more easy and economical practice, but answer a better purpose. The great object is to protect them from the congealed rain. Was it not for that, it would be a question whether any vine ought to be covered during the winter, for it is only the late frost in the spring which sometimes proves injurious to the vines, when the early vegetation exposes them. They are then uncovered—and if earth has been employed instead of vegetable substances, as recommended above, they are more tender, and of course, more liable to be injured. There is a division of opinion as to the propriety to cover the vines which are old enough to bear grapes. I range with them who think that those which are not covered at all, will be less affected by late frosts, and will give more fruit.

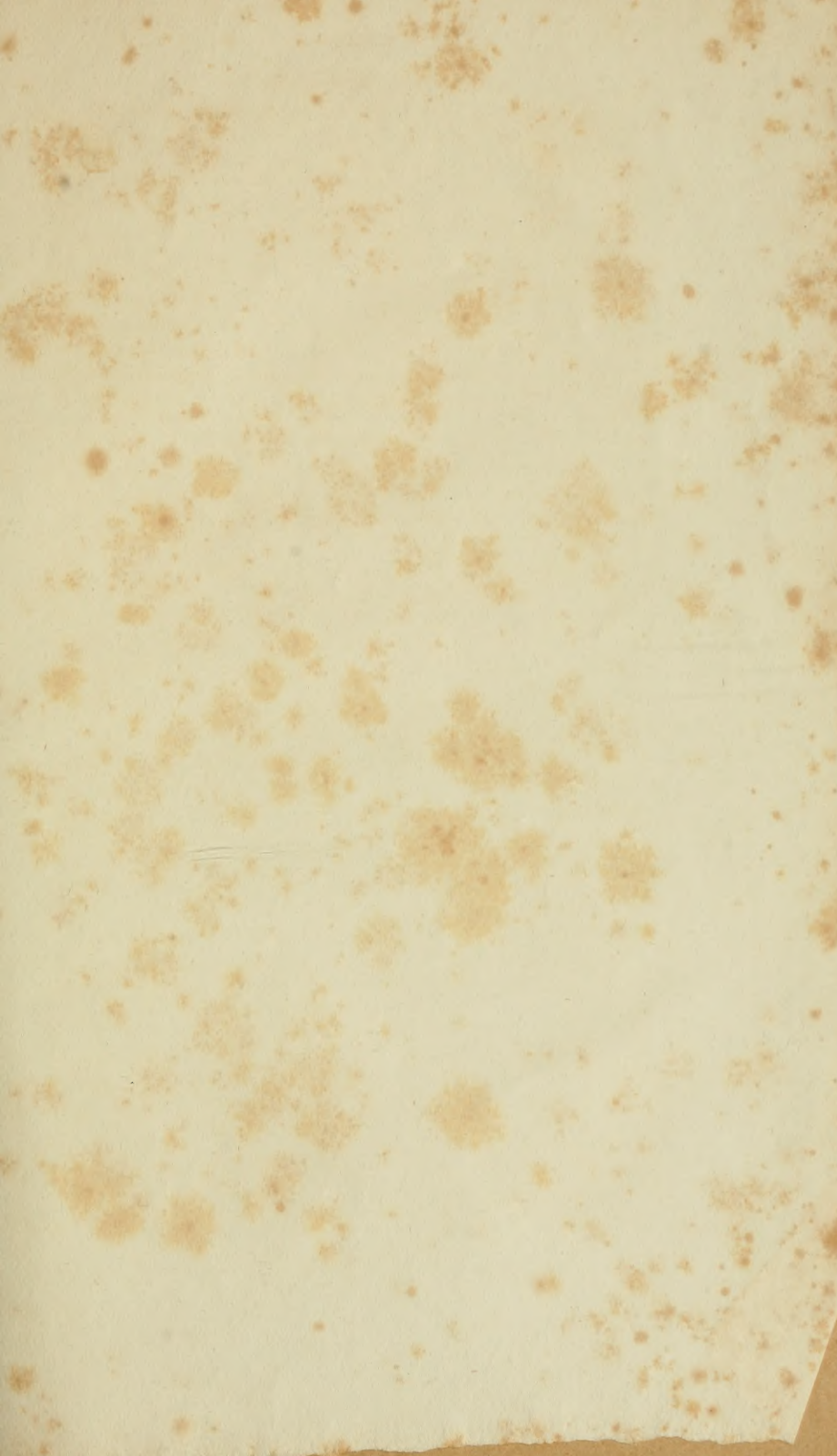
[NOTE E.]

The general temperature of our winters is not more unfavorable to the vines, than the winters are generally in the great vineyard countries of France, and I will venture to say that we are likely to find them more favorable. In France there is a great variety of weather—severe colds come often very rapidly after a number of rainy and moderate days. With us, the predominant and almost constant weather during our winters is a dry cold, with a clear sky. Instead of rains we have falls of snow, which cover the ground often during the space of three months: that snow very often furnishes a wholesome covering to our tenderest plants. The ground remaining frozen till the spring, and our vegetation starting later, our plants are less liable to be injured by spring frosts; but then the vegetation, seconded by a warm sun, goes with a rapidity which will appear as magic to an European lately arrived in this part of the world.

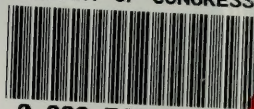
[NOTE F.]

In the other method, the vines are generally planted three feet apart, and are not suffered to grow more than about four feet high.





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